



Slump continues for Mavs

UNO drops heartbreak of a series against Notre Dame.

SPORTS
[PAGE 4]

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

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[PAGE 7]

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TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Gala celebrates UNO's 100 years as higher education institution



Jim Young, a UNO alumnus and president of Union Pacific, presents a champagne toast Saturday to celebrate UNO's centennial at the Qwest Center during the Centennial Gala. Young is standing in front of the UNO Chamber Choir. (TIM FITZGERALD/UNO)

TAYLOR MULLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The UNO family had a reunion of sorts Saturday night at the Qwest Center.

Hailing from throughout the City of Omaha, UNO supporters attended the Centennial Gala, which was part of the 100th anniversary of the university.

Early estimates of around 600 guests attended the fundraiser, which also

functioned as the second signature event in a year of centennial celebrations.

Milling around the warming room before the gala kicked off, UNO community members, faculty and others whose lives had been touched by the university greeted each other and caught up like old friends.

Each person had, in some way, a connection to the second-largest university in the State of Nebraska.

Building off of the theme, "Central to Our City," the centennial celebration has focused on the relationships between what was once Omaha University and the metropolitan city of Omaha.

"It is truly a joy to celebrate this event with so many of the institution's friends, those I believe most responsible for its progress this far and certainly our partners

SEE GALA: PAGE 2

Senators consider resolution to remove Hoffman as speaker

MARK REAGAN
STAFF WRITER

Student Senate considered a resolution by Sen. Nathan Kirkland Thursday to remove Speaker Luke Hoffman for failing to meet duties outlined in the organization's bylaws.

Hoffman has failed to attend every Executive Council meeting, to chair all Rules Committee meetings, to distribute a formal agenda 48 hours before meetings, to record the office hours of other student senators and to ensure that all Student Government meetings were recorded, according to the resolution.

The resolution was met with surprise from most members of the Student Senate. After some shuffling around and a quick review of the resolution, the senators began their debate.

"We are supposed to follow certain rules and duties," Kirkland said. "If we don't do them, we are supposed to be removed from office."

Sen. Samuel Saunders asked Kirkland what evidence he had to support the claims in his resolution.

Kirkland said Hoffman had missed Executive Council meetings on Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and Feb. 3; had missed a Rules Committee meeting; and that Student Government Secretary Brook Ayoub had been posting the agenda, which was not always available 48 hours before meetings. Hoffman also hasn't been recording office hours, Kirkland said.

"I talked to some of the exec last Thursday," Kirkland said. "I have asked to see the office hours and I haven't gotten. Hoffman says they have all been recorded."

Sen. Conner Holt asked Kirkland if he had approached Hoffman about his concerns. Kirkland said he hadn't.

"Was he the only person who has missed?" Holt asked. Kirkland could not give a definitive answer.

Hoffman told the senators to put their predispositions aside while considering the resolution.

"I have never neglected a duty I've called my own," Hoffman said. "I am dedicated to this position."

Hoffman added that he was in "firm opposition" to the resolution.

"I could have done better but that's not the point," Hoffman said. "No disservice has been done to the student body. The spirit of our law must be upheld because our fellow students are the reason we are here."

Student President Neal Bonacci supported Hoffman, saying he was not aware of all of his duties.

"This is a problem that has stemmed from the first semester under Lucas [Seiler]'s administration," Bonacci said. "When I got in here, I was made aware of the things that weren't being done."

Bonacci said he approached Hoffman about these concerns when he first came into office.

"I said that it falls on both ends, not just



LUKE HOFFMAN

on Hoffman's side, but on exec side," Bonacci said. "It falls on Lucas for having people do his work for him or it falls on the people who did his work."

Hoffman agreed with Bonacci that responsibility

should be shared.

"It falls on both shoulders," Bonacci said. "I'm not taking any blame or guilt away from his situation. He should have known; if he didn't, he should have asked."

Sen. Jimmie Pinkham said Hoffman should have been expected to read the bylaws when he became a senator, let alone speaker.

"If you're speaker and not reading the constitution, it's a problem," Pinkham said. "I like him as a person, [but] this is rules. If you don't follow the rules, well, we have to follow the rules. It's just the way it is, and hopefully everyone read it. I know I did."

Hoffman defended himself, saying he was upholding the "spirit of the law" rather than the letter of the law and he had accomplished what he believed was required

SEE SENATE: PAGE 8

Recession, journalism slump impacting local university newspapers

ANDREA CIUREJ
ASSISTANT SECTION EDITOR

Nebraska college newspapers are no exception to the countrywide decline of print advertising revenue averaging 16 percent in the second quarter of 2008.

Print advertising at U.S. newspapers plunged 9.4 percent to \$42.2 billion last year, according to the Newspaper Association of America.

Taylor Muller, editor-in-chief of The Gateway, said the decline locally has been very noticeable.

"We've only been doing eight pages, which is The Gateway's bare minimum," Muller said. "Back in the day, we would range anywhere from eight- to 16-page issues during the week. Twelve was our average a year ago."

Bre Gehrken, The Gateway's advertising manager, said larger companies — such as nationwide cell phone providers — have stopped running ads due to the recession.

"We used to have one running in every issue," Gehrken said. "A lot of people have stopped allocating that money to college newspapers or cutting back on their staff because they have to."

Gehrken said she was thankful for Student Government's continued advertising and the about 30 percent of The Gateway's budget supported by student fees.

"Advertising has been horrible this semester," Gehrken said. "It just hit so hard."

Gehrken has been developing a new media kit, which will provide precise student demographics, ad sizes and discounts offered through the newspaper so advertisers can get a clearer picture of the college newspaper advertising market.

"Just trying to still remind people that we're still here, trying to get a big incentive for advertising with us and kind of put them on a personal level by telling them that we're friendly — we're good people," Gehrken said. "We love to work with anybody and make sure their vision and their advertising campaign is going to come through and it's going to be the most beneficial it can be when they're spending their money with us."

Gehrken said she has been experimenting with online advertisers, too.

"That's where the next big thing is going to be, and I think it's preferred," Gehrken said. "If I have an advertiser that's already in the print addition, I always, always cut them a deal with online advertising."

Creighton University's student newspaper, The Creightonian, has also experienced the advertising slump.

"We used to have enough ads to fill 12 pages," said Ryan Borchers, editor-in-chief of The Creightonian. "But, 12 can't be an expected minimum."

Borchers said their newspaper submits the necessary contact information for advertisers.

"Advertisers haven't been getting in

SEE PRESS: PAGE 8

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MBSC Room 115
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182-0197

Front Desk
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Advertising
554-2494

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554-2352

Fax
554-2735

Unicameral approves ban on sale, possession of Salvia



SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

COURTESY WIKIPEDIA

The Nebraska Legislature voted 44-0 Friday to add the plant *Salvia divinorum* and its main psychotropic molecule Salvinorin A to the state's list of controlled substances.

Legislative Bill 123 makes all parts of the *Salvia divinorum*

plant, seeds, extracts and related compounds all classified as Schedule I controlled substances, the same classifications as psychedelic mushrooms and LSD.

The bill makes possession of *Salvia* a Class IV felony, which carries a maximum of 5 years in prison and \$10,000 fine; and trafficking of *Salvia* a Class III felony, which carries a maximum

of 20 years imprisonment and \$25,000 fine.

Attorney General Jon Bruning, who led the campaign to ban *Salvia* in the state, said the herb was an extremely dangerous drug and public safety demanded it be banned.

"I'm pleased with the legislature's vote today to ban *Salvia*," Bruning said. "I think it is important that *Salvia* not be allowed to be used by members of the public."

Bruning attempted to get a bill through the Nebraska Legislature last session, but it died in committee. The bill was resurrected this year as LB 123 by Sen. Russ Karpisek of Wilber.

Salvia is a hallucinogen drug with intense but short-lived effects,

appearing in less than one minute but lasting fewer than 30 minutes, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Effects include psychedelic changes in perception, feelings of detachment and a decreased ability to interact with one's surroundings.

The drug can be ingested by smoking, chewing fresh leaves or drinking extracted juices of the plant. It is widely available on the Internet.

Salvia has come under media scrutiny in recent years because of YouTube videos showing irresponsible behavior such as driving under the drug's influence.

Before gaining popularity among American youth, the drug

SEE **SALVIA**: PAGE 8

FROM **GALA**: PAGE 1

as we begin our journey into the next century as Omaha's university," said Chancellor John Christensen.

Founded as Omaha University in 1908, UNO joined the University of Nebraska system in 1968.

"[The founding of UNO] was and is a partnership based largely on hopes and dreams and grounded in the mutual desire to create a better life for all our citizens," Christensen said.

Proceeds from the gala will fund two centennial community fellowships for graduate students at UNO, focusing on commitment to education as well as community engagement and service.

Title sponsors of the gala were Union Pacific and the Weitz Family Foundation. The gala sponsor was Cox Communications.

Keynote speaker Roland Fryer, a Harvard economist, spoke of a changing dynamic in the education world, from K-12 through higher education.

Also speaking were Ronald Roskens, former UNO chancellor and NU president emeritus; Thomas Warren, a 1989 UNO graduate and former Omaha police chief; and James Young, a 1978 UNO graduate and chairman of Union Pacific.

Several recent graduates also spoke about their connections to UNO and its ties to the city.

There will be one more signature event for the centennial in October, closing the 100th year for UNO.

At the gala, reflecting on the past 100 years before a room full of UNO supporters, Christensen summed the university's history by saying, "We've come a long way, baby."

PKI celebrates programs, entertains prospective students

NICHOLE CROUSE
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the Peter Kiewit Institute sponsored Information Science, Technology and Engineering Week in conjunction with National Engineering Week.

The week kicked off Monday with breakfast by The Pancake Man, who has catered for the annual event since it began in 2003.

A luncheon at the Scott Conference Center followed on Tuesday, where the guest speaker was John Ochsendorf, an associate professor of building technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ochsendorf, a winner of the MacArthur Fellowship, discussed MIT's studies of Roman and Greek architecture. The lecture focused on how the study of these ancient, large-scale masonry structures can improve engineering today.

The week also featured Brains and Brawns competitions, which consisted of students and faculty members working together in six-member teams in events that included a game show competition and a physical competition.

About 20 people participated in a "Survivor"-style treasure hunt on Wednesday. Teams searched for clues to decode locations within PKI, in a scavenger hunt that led them to puzzle pieces.

The first team to successfully assemble the puzzle won points to be added to the Brains and Brawns leader board for the week. While this was a fun break for current PKI students, the activities also included prospective middle school and high



From left to right, freshman Dan Ordman, junior Sam Anderson, junior Claire Zhao and freshman Taylor Scheer submit a clue during the Brains and Brawn treasure hunt on Wednesday. (JOE SHEARER/THE GATEWAY)

school students.

"It's a big advantage for younger students and individuals we pull in for junior high discovery day and senior high discovery day," said Amber Retke, assistant director of recruitment and retention for the engineering dean's office in Omaha, who helped coordinate the event.

Middle school and high school students were offered opportunities to learn what PKI has to offer students interested in information science, technology or engineering. Secondary school students were also given the opportunity to shadow PKI students during the week.

"[The] week has been great with all the things we'd provided. Students always like free food," said Alma Ramirez-Rodgers, assistant director of college relations and student programs for the engineering college. "We had great success with senior high discovery day — we had about 60 students where we normally have about 40."

The institute's spring open house finished the week



Senior Scott Murray and junior Charlie Dukes speak with prospective engineering students at Saturday's open house. (CAITRIN SHIRAZI/THE GATEWAY)

Saturday, with Ramirez-Rodgers expecting between 200 and 400 people to attend.

The event allowed prospective students the opportunity to interact with current students to learn about the activities and student organizations on UNO's Pacific Street campus.

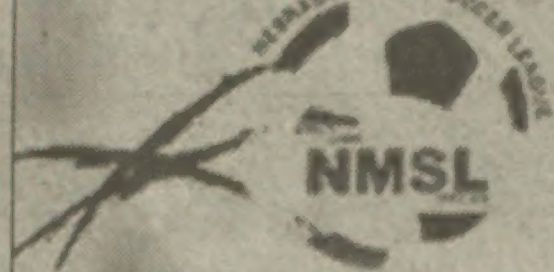
"[It's] a good thing for students to look at engineering as well as to give back to current students," Ramirez-Rodgers said.

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Women's basketball steams to fifth straight win with victory over Southwest Baptist



UNO's Cayla Hargrove slips between Central Missouri's Deidra Dace and Katy Davenport (No. 44) to score during Wednesday's game. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

The UNO women's basketball team rolled to its fifth straight win, knocking off Southwest Baptist University, 81-77, in front of 1,463 fans Saturday night at Meyer Sports Center in Bolivar, Mo.

Senior LaToya Wright scored a game-high 24 points for UNO (14-10, 10-8 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association), as the Mavs earned the sweep of the two-game season series.

The Mavs grabbed a 13-point lead late in the first half, but the Bearcats clawed back to narrow UNO's lead to 34-28 at the break.

The Bearcats (7-18, 4-14 MIAA) used a 10-0 run to tie the game at 51 with 10 minutes left in the second frame, but couldn't get any closer. Mav senior Cayla Hargrove put UNO up for good, sinking a 3-pointer and following with a layup to make it 56-51.

Hargrove finished with 17 points while

junior Ashley Nelson scored 10. Senior Amanda Brodsack added eight points and 12 rebounds.

UNO shot 48 percent from the floor while holding the Bearcats to 38 percent shooting.

Courtney Creed led the Bearcats with 20 points, while Rachel Graves scored 18 and Courtney Heady added 10 points.

On Wednesday, the Mavs handed the University of Central Missouri a 65-44 loss at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavs trailed 27-26 at the half, but UNO's defense held the Jennies to just 17 second-half points as the Mavs coasted to the 21-point win.

UNO came out firing in the second half, scoring the first 13 points to take a 39-27 lead with 14:04 remaining. The Jennies' first field goal didn't come until the 11:28 mark - a 3 by freshman Taylor Hanson that cut the lead to seven, but Central Missouri (16-9, 11-7 MIAA) would get no closer.

The Mavs had four players in double figures led by Wright with 16. Hargrove, Nelson and junior Alyssa Green each added 11 points. Green pulled down a team-best 11 rebounds. Brodsack had a well-rounded night collecting nine points, six rebounds, three assists, three blocks and four steals.

"Coach came in before the game and said, 'Seniors this is it, let's make a contribution and see how your legacy is going to go out,'" Brodsack said. "We have players that are stepping up and

hitting shots and players stepping up and rebounding, it's great."

The Mavs out-rebounded the Jennies 41-31.

"We had superb toughness and did a great job on the boards," Coach Patty Patton Shearer said. "On the offensive boards, we went hard to the glass, we had at least three players every time going hard to the glass."

Senior Katy Davenport led the Jennies with nine points, while sophomore Kara Fleming and senior Dominica Blakemore each added seven.

With two games on the schedule before the MIAA women's basketball championships, the Mavs look to continue their five-game win streak and gain some ground in the MIAA standings. The sixth-place Mavs are one game behind Central Missouri and Missouri Southern State University, both tied for fourth, in the league standings.

"Can we get better? Can we improve every game? That's got to be our focus every single time we step out on the floor," Patton Shearer said. "We can't do anything without great defense and toughness ... and I think we have exhibited great toughness as a collective group."

UNO begins the final week of MIAA action by visiting Missouri Southern (17-8, 11-7 MIAA) on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The Mavs then return home to host Pittsburg State (18-7, 13-5 MIAA) on Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

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Mavs extend winless streak with heartbreaking series sweep

No. 2 Fighting Irish clinch CCHA conference title with 1-0 win Saturday night

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

The Mavericks ended their conference schedule this weekend with a five-game losing streak that's part of a larger school record 13 game winless streak.

Just stating that the Mavs lost 4-3 and 1-0 to No. 2 Notre Dame fails to capture the intensity of the home series, which saw UNO lose Friday with 81 seconds

Collegiate Hockey Association action. The Mavs haven't earned a 'W' since Jan. 9 against Northern Michigan.

The Fighting Irish, on the other hand, improved to 25-5-3 overall and 19-4-3-3 in CCHA play. With Saturday's win, Notre Dame also clinches the CCHA regular season title and the first seed in the conference tournament.

"We're already playing desperate," Kemp said. "We just have to keep

Jeric Agosta could tie the game 1-1 just 39 seconds into the second period.

Notre Dame fought back, scoring twice in the middle minutes of the second. The Fighting Irish's Christian Hanson put a low wrist shot from out near the blue line past Dupont at 4:32. Billy Maday made it 3-1 after the Mavs were whistled offside and Maday was able to put the puck past Dupont's blocker on a quick play at 15:33.

night in front of 7,991 fans at the Civic Auditorium.

After a scoreless two periods, the Fighting Irish's Dan Kissel took a pass from Erik Condra, who carried it past the Mavs' blue line to split the defense on a 2-on-1 situation, allowing Condra to beat senior goaltender Jerad Kaufmann at 8:31 in the third.

The Mavs, however, were not without their chances.

In the second period, Fanto got loose on a breakaway, but was forced wide by Pearce and lost control of the puck. In the third, UNO transitioned while killing a penalty to force a 2-on-1 with Ambroz unable to capitalize on the opportunity.

With three minutes left on the clock, it looked like the Mavs had tied the game 1-1 in a battle in front of the Fighting Irish net. The play was called no goal, however, as UNO forward John Kemp was called for cross-checking.

UNO kept fighting, earning its own power play in the final minutes of the game and attempting to convert a faceoff in the attacking zone with only a few seconds remaining on the clock.

Nevertheless, the Mavs were held to just two shots in the third period and were unable to produce a last-minute goal. The loss was UNO's four shutout of the season.

Mike Kemp said he was disappointed with the outcome of such a great effort by the Mavs. Kaufmann agreed, saying it was tough to give 110 percent and still come up short.

"We just can't find that win," Kaufmann said. "It's just been tough this last stretch."

The Mavericks are idle for the final week of CCHA league play due to their schedule. UNO currently stands at seventh in the league, with Northern Michigan overtaking the Mavs over the weekend.

Ferris State stands just one point shy of UNO, with 25 points to the Mavs' 26. The Bulldogs face No. 3 Michigan on the road this week.

UNO has lost the opportunity to impact the regular season league results, Mike Kemp said, but the CCHA tournament gives the team the opportunity to turn things around and still finish with

SEE HOCKEY: PAGE 8

Below: Matt Ambroz and Notre Dame goaltender Jordan Pearce watch as the puck slides near the goal. Ambroz slapped in the puck to cut the Irish lead down to 3-2 heading into the third period of Friday's game at the Civic. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Right: Notre Dame goaltender Jordan Pearce eyes a loose puck as UNO's J.P. Platisha and Kyle Lawson battle during Saturday's game at the Civic. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)



A little over a minute later, UNO's Matt Ambroz earned the game's only power play goal when he swatted the puck out of the air and into the back of the net, catching the rebound from a shot by UNO defenseman Mark Bernier that deflected off the post.

Mavs' forward Nick Fanto was the equalizer in the third period, catching Notre Dame goaltender Jordan Pearce off-guard by redirecting a bouncing puck from UNO forward JJ Koehler at 8:10 to earn his third goal of the season.

Dupont again held off a Fighting Irish onslaught in the third, recording 28 saves during regulation.

"In the third period, he certainly kept us in the game," Kemp said. "I'm certainly thoroughly proud of how the guys battled through tonight."

In overtime, however, Notre Dame broke up a play in the neutral zone, leaving Kevin Deeth and Maday to challenge Dupont. A shot from Maday deflected off a Maverick defender and slipped past Dupont into the goal. Kemp described the loss as a bad bounce.

Saturday saw the teams return to the ice for another hard-fought game, with the Mavs celebrating senior

remaining in overtime and a disallowed goal with three minutes left Saturday.

"For three games in a row, they've played outstanding," Coach Mike Kemp said of his team after the series. "We had our chances; they just didn't go our way."

With the losses, UNO drops to 13-15-7 overall and 8-12-7-3 in Central

working."

Friday saw Notre Dame and UNO trading goals, with the Fighting Irish's Christiaan Minella burying the puck at 3:03 in the first period.

Junior goaltender Jeremie Dupont held on for the rest of the first, making several close saves until UNO forward

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UNO swimmers qualify record number for nationals



MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

Fourteen swimmers from the UNO swimming and diving team qualified for the national championships and finished third at the Northern Sun Championships, held at the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Swimming Pool this weekend.

After four days of competition, St. Cloud State claimed the women's title with 1,032 points. Minnesota State University, Mankato finished second with 931, just 53 points ahead of UNO's 878. South Dakota was in fourth at 863. Minnesota State Moorhead (808) and Northern State (234) rounded out the field.

St. Cloud State won the men's title with 734 points, edging out Mankato with 726. South Dakota finished third in the three-team meet with 609 points.

Senior Lindsey Kline kicked off the meet with a qualifying time in the 1,650-yard freestyle, finishing first at 17:28.05. Kline also qualified in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:00.77, good enough for second place and the best time in school history, breaking the 5:00.91 mark she previously set.

"I went my best time and set a school

record, so that was fun," Kline said. "We're swimming really well."

In the 100-yard freestyle, sophomore Cait Hopkins finished third with a national qualifying time of 51.94. Hopkins also won the 200-yard freestyle with a national qualifying time of 1:53.

Sophomore Laura Kemp posted a qualifying time in the 200-yard individual medley after finishing second with a time of 2:08.02.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of junior Kristy Gmeiner, junior Lisa Elworth, senior Katey Howarter and Hopkins finished second with a national qualifying time of 3:31.02.

In the 400-yard medley relay, the quartet of Gmeiner, senior Carrie Murphy, junior Jessica LaFave and Hopkins finished fourth with a time of 3:54.86, good enough to qualify for the national championships.

The Mavs took the top spot in the 800-yard freestyle relay and posted another national qualifying time. Freshman Amy Becholdt, junior Tessa Edwards, Hopkins and Kline finished with a time of 7:40.78.

LaFave's first place finish in the 200-yard butterfly was good for a secondary qualifying time of 2:07.82. LaFave also qualified for the 100-yard butterfly after a



Top: Jessica LaFave swims during the 400-yard medley relay Thursday night. (MICHELLE BISHOP/ THE GATEWAY)

Bottom: Carrie Murphy helped the Mavs earn a qualifying time for the national championship meet as UNO finished fourth in the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 3:54.86 Thursday night. (MICHELLE BISHOP/ THE GATEWAY)

second place finish at 57.10.

The Mavs now turn their attention to the NCAA swimming and diving championships held March 11-14 in Houston. Eleven Mavs qualified for last year's event where UNO finished fifth.

"We really have to swim lights out and stay focused," Coach Todd Samland said.

UNO'S NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

SENIORS

Katey Howarter
Carrie Murphy
Lindsey Kline

JUNIORS

Tessa Edwards
Lisa Elworth
Kristy Gmeiner
Jessica LaFave

SOPHOMORES

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Colleen Klaiber
Ariel Lahowetz

UNO indoor track team posts record-breaking weekend in Lincoln

SEAN OWENS
STAFF WRITER

Two of UNO's track stars continued their streaks, making Division II national record-setting times in several events.

The Nebraska Tune-Up, hosted by UNL, furthered the success of two sprinters. Senior sprinter Pinar Saka and sophomore Anja Puc both made marks on Saturday that earned them records in their respective events.

Saka continued her dominance of the track world, this time in both the 200- and 400-meter sprints. Running in the 400-meter, Saka finished with a time of 53.32 seconds, narrowly missing her previous school record mark of 53.04.

"I didn't feel like I ran my best in the race," Saka said. "I wasn't satisfied with the way I ran, though it was my second best time."

The senior sprinter then used the 400-meter finish to fuel her fire for the 200-meter event.

Running in the 200-meter for the first time this year, Saka posted a D-II record setting time of 23.93, a full second and a half faster than the previous national mark.

"I was extremely happy about the time I finished in," Saka said. "I didn't think I would do 23 seconds. I felt that I could do it, but I was so happy and jumping up and down after I did it."

She also became the UNO school record setter in the event, overtaking the previous mark of 24.29 set by senior, nine-time All-American Molly Belling in 2007.

Hailing from Medvode, Slovenia, sprinter Anja Puc also continued her pace towards nationals by once again setting a record mark in the 800-meter event.

The sophomore sprinter finished the race with

a time of 2:09.44, a full two seconds faster than her previous record setting mark.

Puc's previous time of 2:11.57 in the 800-meter broke a 23-year-old school record just three weeks ago and her new record time is now the fastest in D-II by a full second.

"It kind of funny for me to break my own record," Puc said. "It feels good to be able to win 800-meter for a second time, but I am trying to focus on conference championship mostly."

The UNO track and field team will now focus its season on the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association conference title, as they are set to compete in the MIAA indoor championship on Feb. 27 in Warrensburg, Mo.

"We hope to do our best for the team in conference championship," Saka said. "I am a senior, so I feel like I have to do my part to help lead us."



Pinar Saka ran the best D-II time in the nation in the 200-meter dash. (COURTESY STEVE SMITH/UNO ATHLETICS)

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★★★ Nebraska Reality Stars on the Rise ★★★

DANIELLE SHERMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Ever feel like when you turn on the TV, you see a familiar face? It might not all be a case of mistaken identity. Lately, Nebraska citizens have been popping up on popular reality shows across the nation such as "Hell's Kitchen," "Survivor," "American Idol" and "The Real World."

The most recent star is Papillion's own Colleen Cleek, who has survived Fox's "Hell's Kitchen" so far in the competition. This self-employed, self-taught chef currently works as an instructor at The Classy Gourmet in Omaha and looks to further her experience with the show.

Diane Ogden, originally from Lincoln, appeared on the third season of "Survivor." Omahan John Carroll followed her lead with an appearance in the fourth season.

In the seventh season of "American Idol," auditions were held in Omaha. Chris Bernheisel, a Fremont native, auditioned for the show, but his rendition of Kelly Clarkson's hit song, "Since You've Been Gone" failed to earn him a golden ticket. However, his lovable persona and sweet demeanor won over many hearts across the country.

MTV has also cast two locals for their shows. Omahan Tyrie Ballard appeared on "The Real World: Denver," while Tina Barta from Crete competed on "Road Rules: South Pacific." Both Ballard and

has sparked interests for many people. Getting 15 minutes of fame and having the country know their name for even

actually done something with my life." Sophomore Josh Buda agrees.

Just like Bernheisel, Buda auditioned for American Idol in Omaha, but wasn't featured on the show.

"I went into the competition with the hopes of winning a golden ticket, but knew that my chances were slim," Buda said. "I had more fun telling people about the experience afterwards."

But, the thought of being in the spotlight and having their whole life exposed isn't desired by some. Some past reality show contestants haven't been satisfied with the way episodes are edited for time and for impact.

"I would never want to be on 'The Real World,'" junior Jenna Zeorian said. "They always pick parts of the reality to look a certain way."

Regardless of your take on reality TV shows, there is no denying that Nebraska is slowly climbing its way up to fame. With the opportunities that have become so readily available, there's a good chance that your neighbor or your crazy uncle will be the next contestant on "American Idol" or "Fear Factor." At the very least, be known for acting like a total fool on national television. Either way, it's a win-win situation for good TV.



COURTESY AMERICANIDOL.COM



COURTESY FOX.COM/HELLSKITCHEN

the smallest amount of time is enough to make the sanest people do the most insane things. Those few moments could potentially open new doors for someone and give them the opportunity to be in the limelight. In this day and age, fame is that first step to a lifestyle most people can only dream of.

"I think it'd be fun to have your life videotaped and shown out there," junior Patrick McNary said. "It'd be super cool to have your five minutes of fame, then I can say I've

Barta have taken part in various other "Real World/Road Rules" challenges since their television debuts.

The thought of being on television

Oscars No Grouch This Year

ANDREA BARBE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The 81st annual Academy Awards were presented Sunday night in front millions of fans, both live and on television. Lavish dresses, sparkling diamonds galore and unbelievably beautiful actors swarmed the red carpet for one of the year's most anticipated award shows. This year's ceremony did not disappoint.

The big winners of the night included Kate Winslet for Best Actress in a Leading Role for "The Reader," Sean Penn as Best Actor in a Leading Role for "Milk" and Heath Ledger as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the Joker in "The Dark Knight." Ledger was only the second actor in Academy Award history to win posthumously.

Ledger's parents and sister accepted the award on his behalf and were greeted with a standing ovation that was both moving and fitting.

British drama "Slumdog Millionaire" walked away with the most Oscars of the night, winning eight awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Picture and Best Directing for Danny Boyle.

One of the most hilarious moments of the night was when Ben Stiller, along with Natalie Portman, presented the Oscar for Best Cinematography. Stiller came out in a bushy, auburn beard and mustache combo, mocking Joaquin Phoenix's appearance on the David Letterman show earlier this month. His aloof, space-cadet demeanor was priceless and had everyone in stitches.

Aussie hunk Hugh Jackman hosted the show, which included several over-the-top choreographed numbers that were more cheesy than entertaining. Performers Beyonce, Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens and others collaborated with Jackman for song-and-dance numbers that were painfully annoying. However, that was not the worst part of the night.

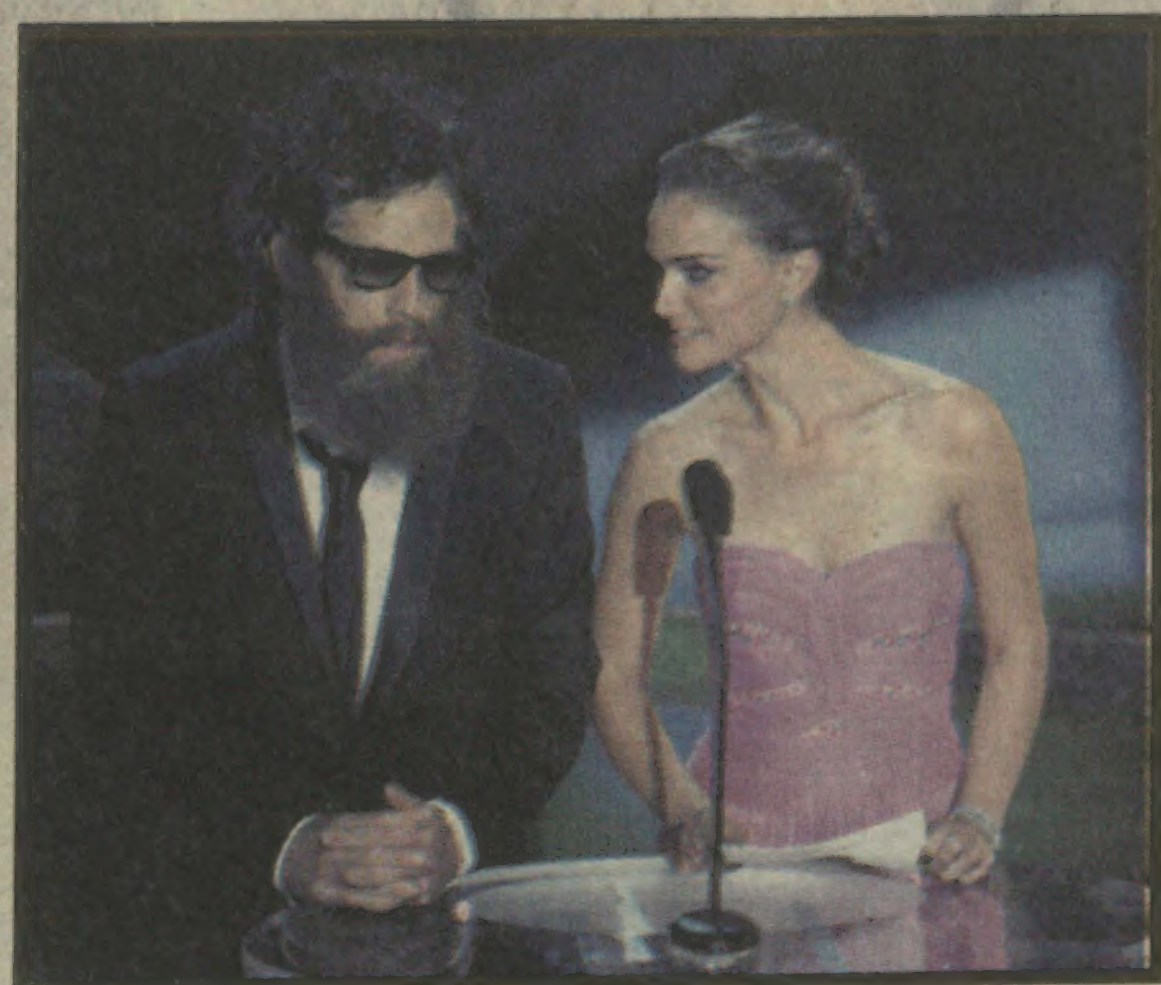
The over-abundance of camera shots on Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie made me wonder if there were any other actors at the awards ceremony, since the crew seemed to love shooting them. I can't be the only one sick of seeing these two all over the TV.

And surprisingly, not all attendees were looking their best on Oscar night.

The presenters for Best Leading Actor and Actress brought back past vaward winners to introduce the nominees. Italian veteran actress Sophia Loren introduced Meryl Steep and while she was a dish back in her day, Loren looked like a hot, tranny mess. Her foundation was about eight shades darker than the rest of her body and she was in a horrible 1980s-style gold dress that was not age appropriate in the least.

Despite the fact that the Oscars are a four-hour event, the glitz and glamour of this award show rekindled my love for entertainment, fashion and celebrities.

In the end, it was a star-studded event that made me realize these award shows aren't just about celebrities in couture costumes kissing each other's asses. It's about appreciating cinema at its finest and awarding those who give their blood, sweat and tears to create classic films that change our lives.



Comedian Ben Stiller, portraying Joaquin Phoenix, left, and actress Natalie Portman make the award presentation for achievement in cinematography during the 81st Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, Sunday. (MICHAEL GOULDING/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/MCT)

Confessions of a pedal-phile

As I look out on our city of cars and roads, I often times reflect on a quotation from James Marston Fitch.

"The automobile has not merely taken over the street, it has dissolved the living tissue of the city. Its appetite for space is absolutely insatiable; moving and parked, it devours urban land, leaving the buildings as mere islands of habitable space in a sea of dangerous and ugly traffic," Fitch said in *The New York Times* on May 1, 1960.

Americans need a kick in the pants to walk, take the city bus or, my favorite solution, pedal a bicycle. There are a myriad of reasons that commuting by bike is superior to driving an automobile. It's an emission-free form of transportation that gets you outside to enjoy life rather than being trapped in a steel and plastic box. It's the unique sense of freedom while pedaling, as if you are passing by the world, and not having the world pass you by. Pedaling a bike is easy and, believe it or not, you get exercise doing it, as well.

Did I mention that it's fun to pedal a bike? Pretend you turned the cranks instead of the keys one morning, just imagine the things you would see on that human-powered excursion, the sounds you would normally have missed in a car, the view of the sun rising over a cityscape. These are the things that I experience daily as a bike commuter.

Three years ago I was driving (yes, I used to be an automobile owner) back from a bicycle race in Des Moines when my car decided to break down and leave me stranded on the shoulder of I-80. Luckily, I had my single-speed steed with me, so I packed up all I could carry and rode nearly 70 miles to Omaha.

After that epic ride home I had no desire to own a car. I was through with finding parking spots, pumping gas, paying insurance and waiting in traffic jams. I was through with living my life like everyone else, so from that moment on I rode two wheels instead of four.

Monday through Friday I commuted 22 miles a day back and forth to classes, pissing off cars and wreaking havoc on the pavement. I absolutely loved it! It was pretty stellar to begin my mornings smelling fresh air and getting exercise instead of being trapped indoors like a hamster on a wheel.

When I arrived at school, I never had to worry about parking either. I carried a bag with the essentials: books, a change of clothes (which I found are nice to have), a spare tube and pump, and mass amounts of food. I never really bothered with showering when I got to school or work - you can throw on deodorant instead.

You also become more and more interested in the weather. You start thinking of yourself as your own

Go Places



Eric Brunt

A history lesson in local racism

Everyone in Omaha should see "A Time for Burning." Hell, everyone in America should see it. It's just that good.

The story of a local church's struggle to stay morally relevant amid a backdrop of racial turmoil, this film fearlessly exposes the hypocrisy of white Christians who listen every Sunday to the message "Love thy neighbor" yet refuse to entertain the idea of worshiping with black Christians.

The premise of the film sounds innocuous enough, for the 100th anniversary of Augustana Lutheran Church. Rev. Bill Youngdahl tries to persuade his congregation to reach out to their fellow black Lutherans in North Omaha. But, by asking 10 white couples to visit the homes of 10 black couples, he causes a great rift in his flock.

Some families whine and complain about having to face the social ills in their own backyard, while even more families simply switch churches or stop going altogether.

All the while, from the pulpit, Youngdahl preaches against prejudice and racism to the visible boredom and hostility of his audience. The viewer notices the eye-rolls and sighs, and the considerably thinning ranks in the pews. No matter what Youngdahl does he cannot seem to reach these people.

Although the viewer empathizes with the reverend, the film's most moving portrait is of Ray Christensen, an owlish middle-aged man with horn-rimmed glasses who is at first one of the staunchest critics of Augustana's move toward integration, but later becomes the integration's leading advocate.

Over the course of the film, he strengthens his commitment to reversing the tide of racism in his church and, in his quest for righteousness, even causes himself some marital turmoil. He is shown at home sitting across from his wife, trying to get her to "try new ways" of thinking about the world. "I can't do it. I can't," she says, wiping her eyes with a tissue. In this moment, the otherwise happy couple seems miles apart.

The film also showcases a young Ernie Chambers, 40 years before his lawsuit against God.

"We're fighting ignorance in the place where there should be the most enlightenment," he declares in a meeting between area pastors. Chambers' role in the film is compelling: a black-nationalist barber who tears into Youngdahl and Christensen for their, at times, placid condescension and naiveté with regard to race relations.

Chambers always has a direct, sensible quip at the ready and serves as the pissed-off voice of reason in a film that probes the mind-numbing illogic of racism among a group of people whose religion commands them to love everyone.

Eventually, Youngdahl realizes the stalwart ignorance of his parishioners, and he resigns. The movie ends with an overwrought folk song and the tacit question of what happens next.

While Youngdahl may have failed to reach the hearts of his worshipers, the church ultimately came to its senses. Augustana is now one of the most progressive churches in Omaha and opens its doors, without judgment, to everyone.

Directed by Bill Jersey and nominated for an Academy Award in 1967, "Burning" is shot in a gritty black-and-white style appropriate to its subject matter. The film is artfully naturalistic, powerful and mesmerizing.

It is available in its entirety on Youtube, and a videocassette can be checked out from the Criss Library. Netflix also offers the latest DVD version, complete with commentary and a 20-minutes extra titled "Update: Ernie Chambers 40 Years Later," which should be interesting no matter what your opinion of the Senator.

The film offers a good view of Omaha's shameful past. It is at times enraging, uplifting, disappointing and, at 56 minutes, far too short. If you want to better understand your city and your country, check out "A Time for Burning."

See what we were like only 40 years ago.

Told You So



Tom McCauley

Real people in reality TV?

Editor's note: This is part three of a series by Gateway contributor Kristin Hawthorne, examining reality TV and today's American culture.

I'm sure you remember the 49-year-old, gold-toothed rapper with the sun-bright suit and king-sized clock medallion, mentioned in my last article. "Flavor of Love" was the name for this abomination the network deemed reality TV.

In it, the women seemed to lose every ounce of civility within minutes of entering his mansion. Combating personalities continuously surfaced.

During one episode, a woman came close to being pushed off a balcony during a fight. In the final round of season one, "Pumpkin" (Brooke Thompson) spit in "New York's" (Tiffany Pollard) face. During the first episode in season two, Saaphyri didn't even stay in the mansion long enough to receive a nickname like the others. When choosing beds, she started a fight with another contestant who beat her with a bouquet of flowers.

It isn't just them. In other mansions, whether the shows followed similar or different "missions" of love, money or best friends, the outcome is always the same. Reality show producers feature the same elements: conflict and violence.

In his article titled "Representations of Race in Reality TV: Watch and Discuss," Mark Orbe explains the truth behind reality TV. Its success, he says, depends on casting a melting pot of people whose perspectives will clash and erupt on screen. But, are casts really random mixtures of people?

The character roles are simple in reality TV whether on MTV, VH1 or any other network. Though not always within the same show, common cast members seem to be the dumb blonde, the meat-head, the flamboyant homosexual and the minority with attitude. This is only the short list.

Adam Tyma, assistant professor of communications at UNO, agrees with this theory.

"There are specific roles that are expected to be played out in reality TV," he said. "The roles depicted are auditioned for in particular. Casting calls often ask for the same things."

The trouble with this is that we as viewers accept the people in these programs, since they are ordinary like us, to be real. What's more, we also tend to believe reality stars reflect different types of people in the real world. The result is the development of universal assumptions that different groups of people act just as the stereotypes on television suggest.

In the current season of "Bad Girls Club" and Paris Hilton's latest show "My New BFF," they've introduced a new conflict-stirring character role. The ignorant, sometimes small-town-minded, ditzy girl is someone the networks can definitely count on to boost their viewership. She is sure to say something offensive or racially stereotypical that sparks a wildfire of anger from the rest of the cast and viewers.

On Paris' show to find a new best friend, it's Corrie who flippantly asks Onch, an Asian-American, if he "could do her nails later." This season's "Bad Girls Club" has blonde "air head" Amber M. from Montevideo, Minn., who offers to pay her roommates to clean up after her.

If I accepted, as some people might, that these instances are samples of people in the real world, I would think blondes were snobby. Besides that, I would accept that all Asian-Americans are nail technicians, but we all know this is not true.

The presentation of these reality casts as a representation of the world in which we live reveals reality TV's real motivations.

"Over the past several years I think the idea of reality TV has been completely erased by competition," Tyma said. In other words, it's all about upstaging other networks, no matter what it takes.

It's important to view reality TV with a critical mind and never accept what happens as real, but simply for the entertainment it is. For the networks, it's all about ratings and keeping you watching their shows. The television, including reality TV, will never be a window into the world around us.



Kristin Hawthorne



FROM PRESS: PAGE 1

touch with us," Borchers said. "We just don't have the ads."

Carly Fujiyoshi, The Creightonian's advertising manager, has been forced to work even harder.

"The huge drop in revenue forced me to do a lot of ground work," Fujiyoshi said.

Fujiyoshi said her main focus is on local advertisers, not national contracts.

"I don't go chasing after the corporate guys," Fujiyoshi said. "The paper will be printed regardless of the ads produced."

Nonetheless, those advertisements improve the complexion of the newspaper, Fujiyoshi said.

"They are more to look good to show we can function like an original newspaper," Fujiyoshi said.

Last year, The Creightonian launched an online version of its student newspaper to give readers another way to view the newspaper and retrieve exclusive information.

"We felt that's where journalism is going," Borchers said. "Not only because this is the way many readers want to see, but this is what journalists will be working with."

Borchers said the Web site is still undergoing improvements, though.

"It's not where we want it to be, but it's relatively new," Borchers said.

The decreased circulation of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln's student newspaper, the Daily Nebraskan, is credited to the preference of online advertising.

Hilary Stohs-Krause, editor-in-chief of the Daily Nebraskan, said all newspapers are coping with this issue across the country.

"We had to ask for more income from UNL student fees," Stohs-Krause said.

"We ourselves have lost 25 percent of our advertising revenue in the last year."

Stohs-Krause said their newspaper has downsized, too.

"We've had to cut our paper down from 12 pages to eight pages," Stohs-Krause said. "Staff wages have also been cut slightly."

Still, Stohs-Krause said they have not had to foot the increased cost of paper yet.

"At the time, our costs were only up 5 percent," Stohs-Krause said. "It didn't hit until our printing bid was accepted."

The Daily Nebraskan has also had competition with the satirical, online-only newspaper, the Dailyer Nebraskan. Nevertheless, Stohs-Krause said the Dailyer is a fantastic addition to the university.

"I can't wait for the publication to grow," Stohs-Krause added.

With some of the success of online college publications, Muller said the online edition of The Gateway is an important way to communicate with UNO readers.

"A good number of the errors, corrections ... come across that way," Muller said. "Usually it's in the form of a comment on our Web site."

Despite some of the benefits, though, Muller said Gateway staff and readers aren't ready to part with the print version.

"I still think that it has an incredibly vital part to inform citizens," Muller said.

Muller said he doesn't feel there is a solution to the advertising slump at the student-media level. Instead, it rests on the shoulders of the regional and national media.

"This is a problem that's been plaguing the biggest and brightest newspaper minds in the industry," Muller said. "It's been something that they haven't even been able to sit down and figure out."

FROM SENATE: PAGE 1

of him.

"You did have a semester to figure out what you were supposed to do," Pinkham said in response to Hoffman.

Kirkland also objected to Hoffman's characterization of the complaints as petty.

"I think that is a big deal," Kirkland said. "His actions have delayed progress because of the way things have been carried out, and when things are going more smoothly, we can better serve the students."

Many of the other senators, however, disagreed with Kirkland. Sen. Michael Crabb went as far as to call Kirkland's resolution "a disservice" to Student Government.

Ultimately, the vote to remove Hoffman was 5-15 with three abstentions.

"I think people took it as something against him, but look ... it wasn't that. He wasn't following the rules," Kirkland said.

"They took it as, 'Well, he is a good guy, we shouldn't remove him,' but he is the speaker

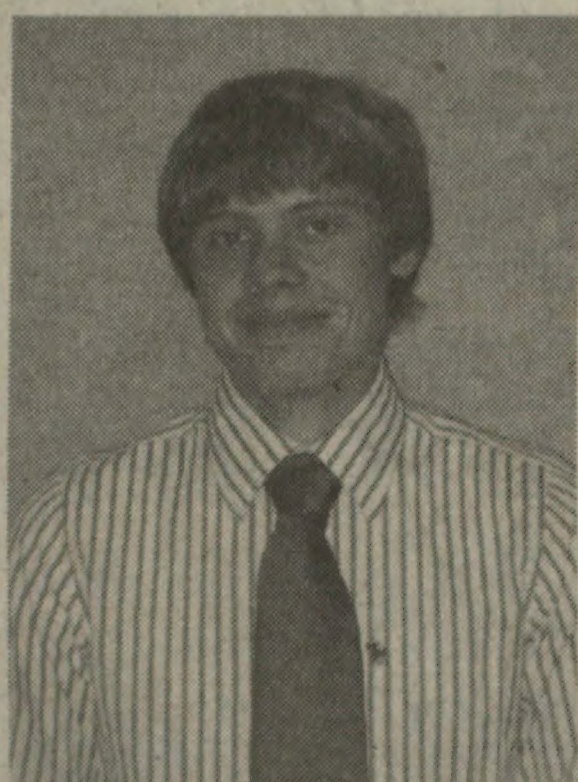
and he is not doing his job. We should remove him. It's nothing against him. It's the rules."

Kirkland said he might work on another resolution to remove Hoffman, but he would wait to see if Hoffman's future performance improves.

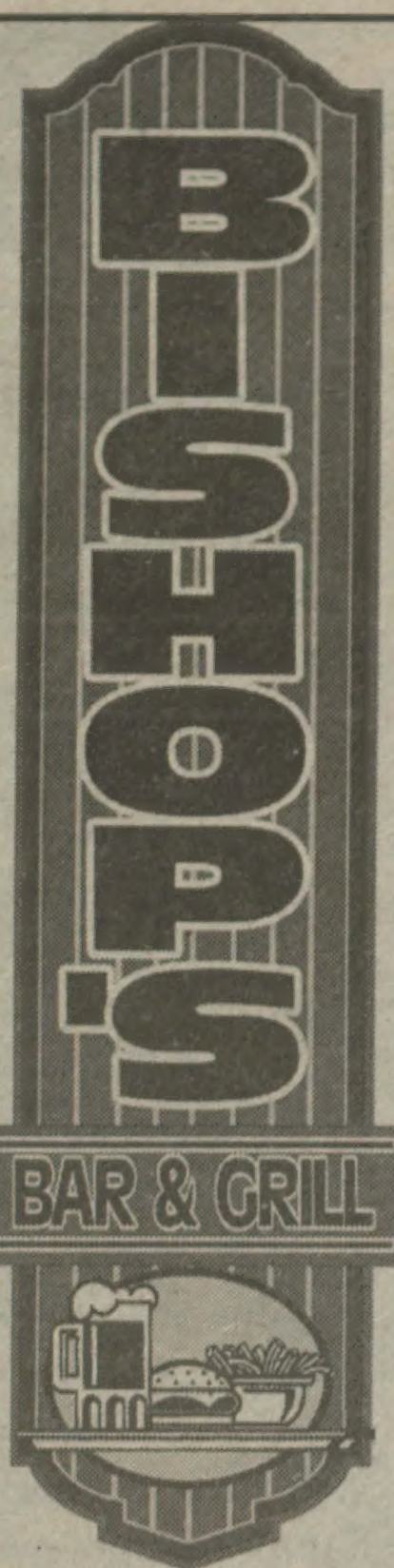
In other business, the senate passed three resolutions allocating \$1,325 for promotional items - 1,000 pens, 100 drawstring bags and 250 mini-staplers. They will be distributed to freshmen during Durango Days at the beginning of the fall semester.

Crabb also announced that the Student Affairs had received feedback from 180 students and discussions were underway to extend Criss Library hours to 2 a.m. There will be a meeting with Criss Library Dean Steve Shorb next week to discuss the proposal.

The next meeting of the Student Senate will be on March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room.



NATHAN KIRKLAND



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FROM SALVIA: PAGE 2

was primarily used by shamans
in Oaxaca, Mexico.

While the drug remains legal under federal laws, a growing number of states have passed laws to ban or restrict the sale of Salvia.

In California, for example, the sale of Salvia is prohibited to minors, whereas Kansas bans the plant outright, as the bill passed by the Nebraska Legislature does.

FROM BRUNT: PAGE 7

meteorologist. I remember one time when I pedaled after it had rained thinking, "I'll be fine, the showers have stopped." What I quickly realized is that all that muck on the roads splatters your backside, resulting in a lot of wetness. Now I have a bike specifically for days like that equipped with fenders to keep me looking good and dry.

Commuting opened me to a new aspect of cycling I had known nothing of. Before, all I had known was racing

FROM HOCKEY: PAGE 4

a strong showing.

Kaufmann said the team isn't too concerned with this week's results, but instead will focus on getting ready for the post-season.

"We've got nothing to lose," Kaufmann said. "It's all on these other teams. They're the ones with the targets on their back."

The Mavs will finish their regular season schedule Tuesday with a non-conference game against Minnesota State University, Mankato, at 7:05 p.m. at the Qwest Center. UNO fell 3-4 to the Purple Mavericks earlier this season in Mankato, Mich.

bikes and wearing too much butt-hugging spandex. Now I am fully embracing this lifestyle, and telling others to start, as well.

Pedaling bikes even got me a job delivering sandwiches for Jimmy Johns. Not with a car, but a bicycle.

I'm not expecting any of you to take it as far as I did, but it can be done. With just a little bit of planning and a desire to do something different, you can change your life, and the world around you, by simply pedaling a bicycle.

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